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Partial letter from Robert Patterson to an unidentified recipient dated November 25, 1861

Robert Patterson

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Morning for Ohio. He was very sick when leaving.

Col Marshall also went to St Louis to see about
our winter Quarters. It will take some time
to move all the troops from here by rail; as there
is about ten thousand men. I suppose there will
be part of them left here for the winter unless they
are driven away. I should not like to stay here
long for a more miserable place or country I never
saw. And the country all the way back to Springfield
is no better. Nothing but stone and hills and scrubby
oak timber all the way.

R P

Rolla Nov 25th 1861

P.S. There has been a report flying around camp for the last twenty four hours that McCollough had come to fifteen miles this side of Lebanon; but it is not so. I saw a Scout a few minutes ago that left Springfield on Saturday; and he says there is none this of there but some thousand or fifteen hundred in Springfield.

I can't for the life of me see what good we have done by coming out here. It seems to me like the child's story of the king who marched forty thousand ^{men} up the hill and then marched them down again. Dr Cowan left here this